



News

from the MNPS Public Information Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

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\$15,000 Donated to MNPS for Counseling Program

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (May 29, 2009) – The MNPS School Counseling Program is getting a major boost from two local businesses. AmeriChoice and Regions Bank recently donated \$10,000 and \$5,000 (respectively) to help fund the Sexual Assault Center’s Safe@Last program, which is currently used in several Metro schools. Funds will be used to purchase program materials.

“Teaching our children how to protect themselves is one of the best tools we can give them,” said Dr. Kellie M. Hargis, Executive Director of School Counseling Services. “We sincerely appreciate the support shown by AmeriChoice and Regions. With their partnership, wonderful programs like Safe@Last will continue to thrive and assist in the overall education and safety of our children.”

Safe@Last, a program coordinated by the Nashville-based Sexual Assault Center, is designed to teach students how to protect themselves from physical and emotional harm. The program provides students grades K-6 the tools they need to avoid dangerous situations. Safe@Last teaches students about personal boundaries and helps them develop assertiveness skills.

“Helping our communities expect more is a vital part of the Regions mission,” said Rick Roberts, Regions Vice President of Marketing for Middle Tennessee. “Through our support of the Safe@Last program, we’re able to help fulfill that mission by providing students with the tools they need to avoid dangerous situations.”

MNPS first introduced the Safe@Last program in 1998 with a pilot project and by 2000 it had expanded to include grades K-6 district-wide. Safe@Last program materials are in every elementary school and nearly all middle schools that serve students in grades K-6. In an effort to expand this program, the MNPS counseling department has been working to establish partnerships with community organizations and businesses. Regions and AmeriChoice graciously stepped up to the plate, providing funding for 24 middle schools’ 5th grade classes; 52 elementary schools’ 3rd and 4th grade classes; and one elementary school’s 5th grade classes. The goal is for every child who attends an elementary or middle school in the district to go through this program.

About MNPS Counseling Department

MNPS has 230 school counselors, serving students grades K-12. The district has at least one counselor in every school in the district. School counselors provide services to all children, with the focus primarily on academic, personal, social and career development. The inclusion of professional school counselors in all schools reflects the district and community's commitment to the quality education of the whole child. Through collaborative efforts such as the one mentioned above, MNPS counselors are helping to promote creative policies and implement effective programs that engage, support, and challenge students more than ever. For more information, visit www.mnps.org.

About AmeriChoice by UnitedHealthcare

AmeriChoice by UnitedHealthcare is a Medicaid managed care organization that provides medical and behavioral health care services to TennCare members in East, Middle and West Tennessee. AmeriChoice by UnitedHealthcare is a unit of AmeriChoice, a UnitedHealth Group company that serves more than 2.3 million members of state health care programs in 22 states and the District of Columbia. AmeriChoice is a diversified health services company dedicated to helping states, localities, and other government agencies facilitate care for the economically impoverished, the medically underserved and those without the benefit of employer-funded health care coverage. For more information, visit www.AmeriChoice.com.

About Regions Financial Corporation

Regions Financial Corporation, with \$142 billion in assets, is a member of the S&P 100 Index and one of the nation's largest full-service providers of consumer and commercial banking, trust, securities brokerage, mortgage, and insurance products and services. Regions serves customers in 16 states across the South, Midwest and Texas, and through its subsidiary, Regions Bank, operates 1,900 banking offices and approximately 2,300 ATMs. Its investment and securities brokerage trust and asset management division, Morgan Keegan & Company Inc., provides services from more than 300 offices. Additional information about Regions and its full line of products and services can be found at www.regions.com.

Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to more than 75,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.

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